AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) In a system that is configured to be associated with healthcare services, a method for generating, displaying and recording healthcare service billing information, the method comprising:

electronically selecting a pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by a particular healthcare provider of a healthcare facility for inclusion in a customizable form, wherein the pool of healthcare procedures reflect the medical services rendered by the particular healthcare provider;

electronically selecting one or more healthcare diagnoses characteristically employed by the particular healthcare provider for inclusion in the customizable form, wherein the one or more diagnoses are reasons for performing at least one of the procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider;

generating the customizable form, wherein the step for generating the customizable form comprises selectively by defining display specifications that relate to at least one of (i) a display of the healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and (ii) a display of the healthcare diagnoses characteristically performed employed by the particular healthcare provider, and wherein the display specifications are based on individual user preferences, and wherein said step for generating the customizable form comprises:

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selecting a customizable form definition operation from a set-up menu;

displaying a form header window that identifies the customizable form by identification and description, and provides a current status of the customizable form;

determining if an other form will be used to generate the customizable form;

wherein if the other form is used, selecting the other form, displaying the customizable form in a definition window, and populating the customizable form with information from the other form;

wherein if the other form is not used, defining a new structure for the customizable form, selecting a number of rows for inclusion into the customizable form, defining specifications relating to the pool of healthcare procedures and to the one or more healthcare diagnoses, and displaying the customizable form in a definition window; and

determining a particular sequence of the pool of healthcare procedures based upon user preferences;

using the customizable form in association with the healthcare provider rendering one of the procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures on a patient by selecting at least one of (i) a diagnosis of the customizable form and (ii) a procedure of the customizable form; and

using the customizable form to display billing information on a real time basis

and prior to the rendering of the one of the procedures on the patient to allow the

healthcare provider to advise the patient as to healthcare service to be rendered, including

the most cost efficient healthcare alternative for the patient.

22. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for using

the customizable form to display billing information is performed during an examination of the

patient, and wherein the step for using the customizable form to display billing information

includes allowing the healthcare provider to selectively adjust the cost of rendering the one of the

procedures at the time of the examination of the patient.

23. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for

generating the customizable form comprises including in the customizable form at least one of:

(i)   one or more other healthcare procedures characteristically used by another

healthcare provider of the healthcare facility; and

(ii)   one or more other healthcare diagnoses characteristically employed by another

healthcare provider of the healthcare facility.

24. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the pool of

healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and the

one or more other healthcare procedures used by another healthcare provider are healthcare procedures characteristically performed by healthcare providers of the healthcare facility.

25. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the one or more healthcare diagnoses characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and the one or more other healthcare diagnoses employed by another healthcare provider are healthcare diagnoses characteristically used by healthcare providers of the healthcare facility.

26. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising a step for customizing the customizable form to reflect all of the healthcare procedures performed at the healthcare facility.

27. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for using the customizable form includes using the customizable form to automatically create an accurate billing record statement for the patient.

28. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the step for using the customizable form to automatically create an accurate billing record is performed in real time.

29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the billing record corresponds to standards established in the industry.

Claims 30-31 (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for using the customizable form comprises the steps for:

identifying any procedures used on the patient;

identifying any diagnoses employed to cause the procedures to be used on the patient; and

preserving the customizable form with the identified diagnoses and procedures as part of a medical history of the patient.

33. (currently amended) A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for generating, displaying and recording healthcare billing information, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

receiving a selection of a pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by a particular healthcare provider of a healthcare facility for inclusion in a customizable form, wherein the pool of healthcare procedures reflect the medical services rendered by the particular healthcare provider;

receiving a selection of one or more healthcare diagnoses characteristically employed by the particular healthcare provider for inclusion in the customizable form, wherein the one or more diagnoses are reasons for performing at least one of the procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider;

generating the customizable form, wherein the step for generating the customizable form comprises selectively by defining display specifications that relate to at least one of (i) a display of the healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and (ii) a display of the healthcare diagnoses characteristically performed employed by the particular healthcare provider, and wherein the display specifications are based on individual user

preferences, and wherein said step for generating the customizable form comprises:

selecting a customizable form definition operation from a set-up menu;

displaying a form header window that identifies the customizable form by identification and description, and provides a current status of the customizable form;

determining if an other form will be used to generate the customizable form;

wherein if the other form is used, selecting the other form, displaying the customizable form in a definition window, and populating the customizable form with information from the other form;

wherein if the other form is not used, defining a new structure for the customizable form, selecting a number of rows for inclusion into the customizable form, defining specifications relating to the pool of healthcare procedures and to the one or more healthcare diagnoses, and displaying the customizable form in a definition window; and

determining a particular sequence of the pool of healthcare procedures based upon user preferences; and

rendering the customizable form for use in association with the healthcare provider performing one of the procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures

on a patient, wherein the step for rendering the customizable form for use comprises: (i) indicating a selection of a diagnosis of the customizable form, (ii) indicating a selection of a procedure of the customizable form, and (iii) indicating any cost modification for the diagnosis or the procedure indicated on the customizable form different from a cost typically billed by the particular healthcare provider for the diagnosis or the procedure indicated on the customizable form, and wherein the step for rendering the customizable form further includes displaying billing information on a real time basis and prior to the performing of the one of the procedures on the patient to allow the healthcare provider to advise the patient as to healthcare service to be provided, including the most cost efficient healthcare alternative for the patient.

34. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 33, wherein the step for rendering the customizable form is performed during an examination of the patient, and wherein the step for displaying billing information includes allowing the healthcare provider to selectively modify the cost of providing the one of the procedures at the time of the examination of the patient.

35. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 33, wherein the step for generating the customizable form comprises including in the customizable form at least one of:

(i)   one or more other healthcare procedures characteristically used by another healthcare provider of the healthcare facility; and

(ii)   one or more other healthcare diagnoses characteristically employed by another healthcare provider of the healthcare facility.

36. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 35, wherein the pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and the one or more other healthcare procedures used by another healthcare provider are healthcare procedures characteristically performed by healthcare providers of the healthcare facility.

37. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 35, wherein the one or more healthcare diagnoses characteristically performed by the particular healthcare provider and the one or more other healthcare diagnoses employed by another healthcare provider are healthcare diagnoses characteristically used by healthcare providers of the healthcare facility.

38. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer program code means further comprises executable code for implementing the step for customizing the customizable form to reflect all of the healthcare procedures performed at the healthcare facility.

39.   (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the step for automatically converting information from the customizable form into an accurate billing statement for the patient.

41. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 40, wherein the step for automatically converting information is performed on a real time basis.

42.   (new) In a system that is configured to be associated with healthcare services, a

method for generating, displaying and recording healthcare service billing information, the

method comprising:

electronically selecting a pool of healthcare procedures characteristically

performed by a particular healthcare provider of a healthcare facility for inclusion in a

customizable form, wherein the pool of healthcare procedures reflect the medical services

rendered by the particular healthcare provider;

electronically selecting one or more healthcare diagnoses characteristically

employed by the particular healthcare provider for inclusion in the customizable form,

wherein the one or more diagnoses are reasons for performing at least one of the

procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the

particular healthcare provider;

generating the customizable form by defining display specifications that relate to

a display of the healthcare procedures characteristically performed by the particular

healthcare provider and the healthcare diagnoses characteristically employed by the

particular healthcare provider, wherein the display specifications are based on individual

user preferences, and wherein said step for generating the customizable form comprises:

selecting a customizable form definition operation from a set-up menu;

displaying a form header window that identifies the customizable form by

identification and description, and provides a current status of the customizable

form;

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determining if an other form will be used to generate the customizable form;

wherein if the other form is used, selecting the other form, displaying the customizable form in a definition window, and populating the customizable form with information from the other form;

wherein if the other form is not used, defining a new structure for the customizable form, selecting a number of rows for inclusion into the customizable form, defining specifications relating to the pool of healthcare procedures and to the one or more healthcare diagnoses, and displaying the customizable form in a definition window; and

determining a particular sequence of the pool of healthcare procedures based upon user preferences; and

using the customizable form in association with the healthcare provider rendering one of the procedures from the pool of healthcare procedures on a patient by selecting at least one of (i) a diagnosis of the customizable form and (ii) a procedure of the customizable form.

43.   (new)   A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the step for using the customizable form further comprises:

rendering the customizable form, comprising: (i) indicating a selection of a diagnosis of the customizable form, (ii) indicating a selection of a procedure of the

customizable form, and (iii) indicating any cost modification for the diagnosis or the procedure indicated on the customizable form different from a cost typically billed by the particular healthcare provider for the diagnosis or the procedure indicated on the customizable form, and wherein the step for rendering the customizable form further includes displaying billing information on a real time basis and prior to the performing of the one of the procedures on the patient to allow the healthcare provider to advise the patient as to healthcare service to be provided, including the most cost efficient healthcare alternative for the patient.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that a complete listing of all claims is provided herein that no new matter has been added, and that the claim set is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant therefore requests favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Berne S. Broadbent
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 30,550

KIRTON & McCONKIE
1800 Eagle Gate Tower
60 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Telephone: (801) 328-3600
Facsimile: (801) 321-4893

BSB/DBT/hlw
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